

Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Wednesday, October 10, 2018 – 6:30 pm
Rowe Town Hall - Hearing Room 1

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Morse at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Chair Jennifer Morse, Vice-Chair Dennis May, Member Sokol and Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau
Finance Committee: Wayne Zavotka, Chair; Loretta Dionne, C. Selmi Hyytinen, Paul McLatchy III, Laurie Pike and Board of Assessors Chair Rick Williams, Town Accountant Tracey Baronas and Town Treasurer Joanne Semanie and School Committee Chair Susie Zavotka

OPEN MEETING

Announcement of recording devices & noteworthy information - None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Assessors Update on FY19 Tax Rate Setting: Board of Assessors Chair Rick Williams reported that there were preliminary results from work completed to assess transmission and distribution powerlines per property for the utility companies. The Preliminary results find an over 5 million dollar valuation increase for personal property values. He also said that the interim year hydro facilities appraisals were not in as yet, so it is not clear how this information may affect the New Growth calculations. The data from these reports could potentially lower the tax rate for FY 2020.
2. Free Cash Certification: Town Accountant Tracey Baronas reported completed the Free Cash certification with the Dept. of Revenue for the amount of \$396,462.00. She explained the amount was due to several factors: School Choice funds at the end of the year were reverted to the town, Assessors Overlay Surplus of \$30,000.00, \$310,000.00 excess unspent items from the FY18 Budget and Local Revenues up by \$15,000.00.
3. Board of Selectmen Update on Insurance, County Road:
 - a.) Insurance: Member Sokol said he was working on figures related to insurance showing what we are currently spending on insurance and likely projected figures based upon historical increases. He also is reviewing what a reduction of the town share paid for employee health insurance and how it would affect the lowest and highest paid employees. He is putting together data to see if it is sustainable to continue to pay 85% of the employee insurances.

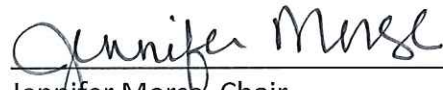
Chair Morse explained that the Board had researched whether the town had properly voted to pay over 50% of the town share of insurance and due to the fact that there were many Select Board Meeting Minutes from past years missing, it may not be possible to verify whether proper votes were made. Recently some floppy disks were uncovered and were being converted to readable files and will be reviewed for content. If votes cannot be located, Town Counsel recommended voting the necessary items at Town Meeting.

- b.) County Road: Chair Morse said there were 4 lots for sale on County Rd. and the Board had met with the Finance Committee to discuss whether it was a good plan to purchase the lots for the town since if there was a permanent resident, it might require the highway dept. to maintain the road all year round, rather than seasonally as it is now. Since it is officially a county road, the town would have to petition FRCOG to make it a town road. As a town road the town could then decide whether to change the maintenance of the road. Following discussion, it was agreed there is no clear plan of action at this time.
4. Finance Committee Update on CIP: Finance Committee Chair Wayne Zavotka reported that he and Chair Morse had met with Joe Markarian of Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Financial Management Specialist who is currently compiling data to finalize an update a Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He is working on the CIP as part of a Community Compact Grant from the state. Mr. Markarian would put together a 1-5 year plan as well as some long term planning.
5. Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Preparation: The FY2020 Budget planning calendar was reviewed and Chair Morse presented a sample of a new style worksheet that she would work on for depts. to review and submit their budget requests. Finance Committee member McLatchy agreed to assist with the worksheet preparations.
6. All Boards and Committees meeting on November 5 at 6:30 p.m. – Rowe School: Chair Morse indicated that there would be an All Boards and Committees meeting on November 5th to update work that each department and committee is performing this year and plans for the future.

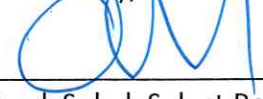
Adjournment: Seeing no further business, Vice-Chair May made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 7:49 p.m. The motion, seconded by Chair Morse, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Janice Boudreau
Executive Secretary

Approval Date: October 30, 2018
Approved:


Jennifer Morse, Chair


Dennis May, Vice-Chair


Chuck Sokol, Select Board Member

Documents:

- Agenda 10-10-18
- Draft Budget Worksheet